PATENT ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0052/048001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE RECEIVED

icant : Yasushi USAMI

Art Unit: 2861

APR 2 2 2002

al No. : 09/864,298

Examiner:

ing Date: May 25, 2001

Technology Center 2600

: IMAGE DATA ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to their duty of good faith and candor as set in 37 CFR 1.56(a), applicant requests that the references rited on attached form PTO-1449 (a copy of which is enclosed) be considered by the Examiner in connection with the search of the prior art required by 37 CFR 1.104.

Enclosed please also find a copy of the European Search Report citing these references. The relevance of these references can be seen from the European Search Report.

This Statement is being filed under 37 CFR 1.97(b) prior to the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at the telephone number listed below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 11, 2002

Randolph A Reg. No. 32,548

SMITH PATENT OFFICE

1901 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Suite 200

Washington, DC 20006-3433 Telephone: 202/530-5900 Facsimile: 202/530-5902

Usami041102

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Complete if Known **Application Number** 09/864,298 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date May 25, 2001 STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Applicant(s) Yasushi USAMI (use as many sheets as necessary) **Group Art Unit** 2861 **Examiner Name** 2 0059/048001 of **Attorney Docket Number** Sheet

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS DOCUMENT **EXAMINER** Cite Pages, Columns, Lines, NUMBER Kind Code² NAME Where Relevant Passages or Relevant INITIAL* No. DATE (if known) MM-YYYY Figures Appear 5,579,471 BARBER et al. 11/1996 5,666,215 FREDLUND et al. 09/1997 6,017,157 **GARFINKLE** et al. 01/2000 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Foreign Patent Document **EXAMINER** Kind Code5 DATE Cite Pages, Columns, Lines, INITIAL* No. Office³ Number4 (if known) NAME MM-YYYY Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear EP 0 543 233 FOLEY et al. 05/1993 Α 0 802 489 COX et al. 10/1997 EP Α SHIOTA et al. EP 0 856 972 Α 08/1998 0 977 084 BRYNIARSKI et al. 02/2000 EP A

XAMINER DATE CONSIDERED

^{*}Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁴Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	09/864,298	
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EXAMINER	Cite	OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the	T ²
EXAMINER INITIAL*	No. 1	item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s),	
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